

WEEKLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES REPORT

For the Week Ending 2 June 2001

GREAT LAKES & OHIO RIVER DIVISION:

Significant Activities: None

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days: None

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CEMVP) DEVILS LAKE, ND: St. Paul District is initiating emergency assistance under P.L. 84-99 in response to a request from the Spirit Lake Tribe, Devils Lake, ND. The emergency work consists of raising six emergency levees that are protecting portions of the Spirit Lake reservation. The work is expected to start 11 Jun 01, and will be completed this summer. The Tribe is providing materials for the emergency construction project.

(CEMVP) INTERNATIONAL LAKE LEVELS: Due to over 10 inches of rain in the Rainy-Namakan Basin from Apr through 24 May 01, water levels are well above the International Joint commission (IJC) emergency condition level (all gates open) on Rainy Lake (+1.3 feet) and Namakan Lake (+1.6 feet), and Lake of the Woods (+0.3 feet) on the Minnesota-Canada border. Inflow to Namakan is showing signs of peaking, while inflow to Rainy and Lake of the Woods is still rising sharply. This year's event will be among the 3 to 5 highest events of record. St. Paul District is coordinating closely with Canadian counterparts and has developed a news release with IJC staff. The Boise-Cascade International Falls powerhouse on Rainy Lake had temporarily shut down its gates due to flooding of the generator room. Shutdown was necessary to prevent generator damage and for safety reasons. Five of seven gates are now back on line; the remaining two will be back on line when safe.

(CEMVP) MISSISSIPPI RIVER HEADWATERS: Due to heavy precipitation, St. Paul District is experiencing very high lake levels in the Mississippi River Headwaters reservoirs. This can cause shoreline erosion and affect private property around the lake but does not threaten communities.

(CEMVR) METEOROLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSMITTER SYSTEM: Rock Island District has initiated deployment of this new system to provide up-to-the-minute environmental data at each Lock and Dam in the Rock Island District. Locks and Dams 13 and 15 are the first to be on line.

(CEMVS) TRI-STATE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT: St. Louis District staff attended the 5th Tri-state Development Summit in Burlington, IA on 31 May 01. Missouri **Gov. Bob Holden (D)** and Iowa **Gov. Tom Vilsack (D)** as well as **Reps. Kenny Hulshof (R-MO-9), Lane Evans (D-IL-17)** and **Leonard Boswell (D-IA-3)** spoke on issues regarding regional development in Southeast Iowa, Northeast Missouri, and Northwest Illinois.

(CEMVN) SAND IN MISSISSIPPI AND ATCHAFALAYA RIVERS: New Orleans District staff are working on informing the public about the decision to restore the balance of bed material sediment (sand) between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. The District will direct Louisiana Hydropower to submit its plan for restoring the balance of sediment between the two rivers, and envisions beginning to restore the balance in Jan 02. At this time, it is estimated that some action regarding distribution of sands will be required on a yearly basis. The District anticipates forwarding draft portions of the plan as

they become available to MVD beginning 4 Jun 01. The goal is to deliver a "final" draft of the plan to the New Orleans District commander on 11 Jun 01.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days:

(CEMVN) ATCHAFALAYA BASIN CRAWFISH: Emotions among commercial crawfishers are still running high because they feel that the Corps is not doing enough to maintain adequate flows in the Atchafalaya Basin for the benefit of crawfish production. Several newspaper articles, including an editorial and letters to the editor, have promulgated negative interpretations on the Corps operation of the Old River Control Complex. New Orleans District has a meeting scheduled with State Sen. Craig Romero and commercial crawfishers the week of 4 Jun 01.

NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CENAE) WESTVILLE LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL: In cooperation with the Massachusetts Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley Heritage district and Commission, funds for a trail bridge over the Quinebaug River at the Corps Westville Lake on the Grand Trunk Trail were made possible. On 2 Jun 01, **Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA-2)** participated in its designation as a National Recreation Trail.

(CENAE) PAUL KEOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD: New England District has been selected for the 2001 Paul Keough Environmental Award for Government Service sponsored by the Environmental Business Council of New England. The award recognizes leadership and dedication to enhancement of the environment. The District's environmental restoration program and our corporate wetlands restoration partnership were specifically cited. The award will be presented on 19 Jun 01.

(CENAN) ATHENS GENERATING COMPANY POWER PLANT PERMIT: On 25 May 01, New York District issued a permit to the Athens Generating Company to place fill material in waters of the United States and install intake/outfall structures in the Hudson River to construct a natural gas-fired 1,080 megawatt capacity electric generating plant in Athens, NY. The work will impact approximately 5 acres of wetlands and streams. The project was strongly supported by **Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY-22)** and New York **Gov. George Pataki (R)**, who indicated that this project will meet a critical need for new electric generation capacity. The project was locally controversial due to historic properties impacts. Measures to minimize these impacts were specified in a Memorandum of Agreement signed on 16 May by the Corps, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and New York State, which concluded the Sec. 106 consultation process.

(CENAB) PORT OF BALTIMORE TOUR: On 31 May, the Baltimore District commander and staff accompanied **Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7)** and Maryland officials on a tour of the Port of Baltimore aboard the Maryland Port Administration vessel *Mary Lin*. During the boat tour, the District briefed the congressman in detail about the Baltimore Harbor anchorages and channels, the Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension, and Tolchester S-Turn projects. The congressman used this opportunity to become more familiar with Port activities in preparation for upcoming events on Capitol Hill.

(CENAO) CORPS CATS: Several Norfolk District employees recently attended a No-Kill Conference in Virginia Beach, VA, sponsored by the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, to learn more about national effort to end euthanasia of millions of homeless, abandoned and feral pets. At this conference, the District's "Corps Cats" feral cat management program was cited as one of the "success stories."

Support of the District commander for this program on the District property was especially commended as a win-win situation and a model for others. The District's volunteer caregivers are very proud to have received this national recognition.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CENAB) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING: On 25 Jun 01, the Baltimore District commander is scheduled to meet with **Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD-1)** regarding dredging issues.

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CENWD) MASTER MANUAL STATUS: NWD met for the second time with EPA Region VII and VIII in Denver on 29 May 01 to discuss how to more fully develop the Clean Water section. The EPA recently asked the States by letter to list the state current water quality problems for the Missouri River for Corps use in the late summer Revised Draft EIS. NWD staff also attended a Missouri River Basin Association meeting in Sioux Falls, SD, on 31 May-1 Jun. The main topic was how to address the endangered species as a group. NWD provided the MRBA the latest direction and status of the Implementation Plan and the Revised Draft EIS. Appropriate NWD staff will visit HQUSACE during the week of 18 Jun to ask for approval to proceed with the Implementation Plan.

(CENWK) TUTTLE CREEK LAKE, KS: Kansas City District's Real Estate and Operations Divisions are working together to prepare an information fact sheet concerning potential special legislation for WRDA 02. **Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)** and **Rep. Jim Ryun (R-KS-2)** are pursuing an item directing the Corps to convey 7.35 acres of land at Tuttle Creek, KS, to the Blue Township Fire District. Due to the steep terrain at Tuttle Creek and the requirement that the land be on the perimeter of the project, a larger than normal amount of acreage is required to build the fire station. The COE visited with Rep. Ryun on the legislation wording about conveyance to the Fire District at no cost, with a reversion clause if the property is no longer used for fire station purposes.

(CENWO) SERGEANT FLOYD MEMORIAL REDEDICATION: On 30 May 01, Omaha District's Public Affairs Office participated in the Sergeant Floyd Memorial rededication ceremony at Sioux City, IA. Among the participants were **Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA-5)**, staff from **Rep. Doug Bereuter's (R-NE-1)** office, and Superintendent Gerard Baker of the National Park Service. The ceremony marked the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of the monument, designed by U.S. Army engineers in 1901 with support of Congress and local citizens to honor Sergeant Floyd, the only member of the Lewis and Clark party to die on the journey, and to recognize the significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The monument was recognized as the first National Historic Landmark in 1960.

(CENWO) MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATION RIVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT: On 31 May 01, a member of **Sen. Tom Daschle's (D-SD)** office joined representatives of Omaha District, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota Game-Fish-Parks, and the National Park Service for a boat trip to evaluate the three primary "demonstration project" sites to protect cottonwood habitat. One of the three sites (Myron Grove) is on the South Dakota side of the river.

(CENWP) DETROIT RESERVOIR LOW WATER: On 30 May 01, Portland District participated in a town hall meeting at Detroit, OR, organized by the Marion County Board of Commissioners, to discuss local reservoir and financial issues facing the town this year because of low water. While the

meeting primarily discussed the city's financial issues, local residents (about 250 people) took the opportunity to criticize the Corps decision not to fill Detroit Reservoir as full as possible this year. The Pacific Northwest is facing the driest year on record and Portland District is trying to store the maximum amount of water while still meeting statutory requirements for listed fish and water quality standards. Also in attendance were staff of **Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)**, **Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)** and **Rep. Darlene Hooley's (D-OR-5)** local offices.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days: None

PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION:

Significant Activities: None

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days: None

SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CESAJ) OPPORTUNITY WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS: Jacksonville District made presentations at a workshop in Orlando on 1 Jun 01 at the request of **Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL-3)**. The focus was engineering opportunities related to CERP. A second workshop is scheduled for 4 Jun in Jacksonville.

(CESAS) GRIFFIN, GA, WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIR: Savannah District is preparing the decision document for this permit application. Over the last 30 months, the applicant has worked to resolve the concerns EPA raised in their comment letters, but during the comment period following the Public Notice, EPA still elected to open their elevation option under Sec. 404(q). On 1 May 01, based on the work that has occurred over the past several months, the District sent a letter to EPA asking them to formally remove their elevation threat. In response, EPA distributed a draft letter regarding their remaining issues (minimal in-stream flows) with this project. The District has been notified that Harold Reheis, of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, wants to meet with EPA to discuss the issues before they send their letter. EPA officials say they are trying to arrange the meeting with him but have not set a date yet. EPA sent an e-mail asking for District's continued patience as they work with the Georgia DNR on these issues.

(CESAW) "SAVE OUR STATE" MEETING: The Wilmington District commander attended a meeting of the Save Our State (SOS) organization in Wilmington on 18 May 01. The SOS mission is to "help preserve clean air and water for North Carolina's future." It is led by a prestigious board of directors. The agenda included presentations on coastal geology, environmental issues, and a "case study in balancing interests: beach nourishment or beach spoiling?" Speakers for the case study were Mayor Joan Altman of Oak Island and Dr. Orrin Pilkey, professor emeritus Duke University. Mayor Altman stressed beach communities complying with the laws regarding federally authorized shore protection projects, enjoying rights of private property ownership, and providing significant tax revenues to their counties and the State. Dr. Pilkey opened with an attack on the ethics and motives of the Corps across the nation, then attacked the North Carolina General Assembly for a bill which addresses planning and funding needs of coastal areas in the State. Finally he denounced shore protection projects as a futile technique which improperly encourages further development on the Nation's coasts. During the question and answer period, the commander thanked Dr. Pilkey for "sharpening the debate" but took exception to his manner, encouraging him to call on his considerable experience with thousands of loyal

and dedicated professionals in both State and Federal government who use the tools at hand to serve the citizens of North Carolina. The media picked up the presentations and the exchanges, and coverage was reasonable and accurate.

(CESAW) DARE COUNTY (HATTERAS AND OCRACOE) PROJECT: At the request of the project's non-federal sponsor, Wilmington District presented an overview of the *Principles and Guidelines* to the Outer Banks Task Force (OBTF) on 22 May 01. There were 40+ people present, including representatives from USFWS, NCMF, NMFS, CAMA, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, and many NCDOT representatives and their consultants, URS and Parsons Brinckenhoff. The OBTF is an advisory group of stakeholders for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, non-federal sponsor of this project.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days:

(CESAC) MEETING WITH SOUTH CAROLINA SENATORS: The outgoing and incoming Charleston District commanders are scheduled to meet on 13 Jun 01 with **Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-SC)** and **Ernest Hollings (D-SC)**.

(CESAJ) JACKSONVILLE CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS: The Jacksonville District commander has congressional visits scheduled for 12-14 Jun 01, and has scheduled the Everglades Restoration status briefing for the Florida congressional delegation on 13 Jun 01 in Washington, DC.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CESPD/CESPK/CESPN/CESPL) CONGRESSIONAL TOUR: Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-AL-1), Chairman of the House Energy & Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, visited California and Nevada from 30 May-3 Jun 01 at the invitation of the Association of California Water Agencies, Port of Long Beach and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. SPD was tasked to provide logistical support for his trip. In Northern California, he was briefed on Sacramento area flood issues by the Sacramento District commander and on Port of Oakland and dredging issues by the San Francisco District commander. In Southern California, the congressman was briefed on a large number of Los Angeles District projects. He was accompanied throughout his visit there by the Los Angeles District commander and DDE-PM. Rep. Callahan was joined by **Reps. Steve Horn (R-CA-38)** and **Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-33)** in their respective districts.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CESPA) CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE VISITS: The Albuquerque District commander has office visits scheduled with **Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO)**; **Sen. Jeff Bingham (D-NM)** and **Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX-16)** on 12 Jun 01.

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CESWG) SIGNING OF QUITCLAIM DEED: In response to an invitation by Matagorda County, TX, officials, two Galveston District team members attended a signing ceremony in Bay City, TX, on 2

Jun 01. This event celebrated the signing, by the Secretary of the Army, of a Quitclaim Deed, which released the Colorado River channel right-of-way easement at the Selkirk Island Subdivision.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days: None

ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

Significant Activities:

(CEERD-GV) TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT MEDAL: Dr. Reid Mosher of the Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory was awarded the Society of American Engineers' Technology Advancement Medal at the SAME National meeting in Nashville, TN, on 30 May 01. Dr. Mosher was recognized for his many contributions to force protection and anti-terrorism research.

(CEERD-GV) HAINAN ISLAND AIRFIELD RECONNAISSANCE: The Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory received an e-mail from the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency expressing appreciation for Don Alexander's quick response, advice, and analyses which helped to determine airfield suitability for the two types of aircraft expected to be used to remove the damaged U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Hainan Island.

(CEERD-GV) SHOCK ABSORBING CONCRETE: SACON, developed and patented in the Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory by Dr. Phil Malone, received favorable mention in the June issue of *Soldiers* Magazine for its environmentally friendly properties as a bullet-trapping material at small arms ranges.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days: None